EXERCISE 1: Read the text and think of the word which best fits each gap.

PANCAKE DAY

Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is a special day **(1)** _____ the UK. It is always 47 days **(2)** _____ Easter Sunday, so **(3)** _____ usually falls in February **(4)** _____ March.

The word "shrove" comes **(5)** _____ the English word "shrive", **(6)** _____ means to get rid of your sins **(7)** _____ confessing **(8)** _____ to a priest. Long **(9)** _____, Christians went to church **(10)** _____ Shrove Tuesday to confess **(11)** _____ sins before the season **(12)** _____ Lent began. During Lent, many people give **(13)** _____ certain foods for 40 days **(14)** _____ Easter. These foods include meat and fish, milk, cheese and eggs. So, the day before Lent started, people used up these foods in their houses. They made pancakes **(15)** _____ eggs, flour and milk and added butter **(16)** _____ sugar. This helped to use up their eggs and fat, which they couldn't eat **(17)** _____ Lent.

Today, some Christians still **(18)** _____ to church on Shrove Tuesday, but most people just enjoy eating pancakes. Some towns have pancake races. People run through the streets, carrying a frying pan with a pancake in it. They **(19)** _____ to throw the pancake in the air three **(20)** _____ and catch it **(21)** _____. The first person to cross the finishing line **(22)** _____ dropping their pancake wins! One famous pancake race is in Olney, a town in England. Every year, women there run the race in aprons and hats.

In Scotland, people often eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday **(23)** _____, but they call them "drop scones". In Ireland, they sometimes make a big pancake that is as big **(24)** _____ a frying pan. They put things **(25)** _____ coins, buttons, rings and pieces of straw inside the pancake. They say that if you find a coin in **(26)** _____ piece of pancake, you will be rich; if you find a button, you **(27)** _____ never get married; if you find a ring, you will get married soon; and if you find a piece of straw, your next year will **(28)** _____ bad! For this reason, the Irish are **(29)** _____ careful **(30)** _____ they eat their pancakes on Shrove Tuesday!

EXERCISE 2: Find words in the text for the following definitions.

1. _____ : actions or types of behaviour which are believed to break the laws of God.
2. _____ : a member of the Christian clergy in the Catholic, Anglican, or Orthodox church.
3. _____ : the period of forty days before Easter, during which some Christians give up something that they enjoy.
4. _____ : stop doing something.
5. _____ : a competition in which all the competitors try to be the fastest and to finish first.
6. _____ : the dried, yellowish stalks from crops such as wheat or barley.

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